

A N
A C C O U N T

*Of some Proceedings, lately made, for an
Effectual Prohibition of the EXPORTA-
TION of WOOLL, &c.*

*Recommended to the WOOLLEN MANU-
FACTURERS of this KINGDOME.*

FRANCIS MONK, and others, ha-
ving made several Attempts to obtain a
Commission, to Empower them to put
in Execution the Laws for Prohibiting the
Exportation of WOOL &c. Petitioned the
Late King of Blessed Memory to that end,
the Consideration whereof was referred
to the Right Honourable the Lords of the
Committee of Trade, who made their Re-
port thereupon, which, together with the said
Petition by Order of Council, was referred
to the Right Honourable the Lords of the
Trea-

Treasury; and their Lordships, for their better Information, referred the Matter, with the said *Monk's* Proposal and Papers, to the Attorney General, to the Commissioners of the Customs, and the *Hamburgh* Company; who having severally made their Respective Reports, the said Proposers not being recommended thereby, as Persons fitting for so great an undertaking, their Project took no effect.

And in regard, some of the said Proposers, in former Sessions of Parliament, had endeavoured to set on foot new Bills, to alter and abate the Penalties of the Laws, already made, to Prohibit the said Exportation; it was doubted, whether they were Persons qualified for a hearty carrying on the pretended Prohibition.

Therefore, in July 1684, *Benjamin Craker*, *Charles Craker*, and *Joseph Reeve*, *Staplers*, *William Brewer*, *John Wood*, *John Walkley*, *Richard Scott*, *Thomas Smale*, *Thomas Crundal* and several others, Clothiers and Factors, hearing of the Attempt of the said *Monk* and his Partners, Petitioned the Lords of the Treasury, setting forth

forth, that the said Proposal (if honestly intended) being of great Moment, and universal Concern to the Kingdome, was not fitting to be trusted in the hands of such (or any) private Persons ; and therefore pray'd their Lordships to recommend the same to the *Hamborough, East-India, Turkey, African, Russia, and East-land* Companies, and other general Woollen Traders, of whose Prudence and Integrity there could be no suspicion, to consider the said Proposals, and to report to their Lordships such Rules and Methods, as they thought fit, for the Effectual putting the said Lawes in Execution.

In answer to which Petition, the Right Honourable the Lords of the Treasury, by their Letters to the said several Companies, of the 25 of *July* 1684 ; taking notice that the effectual Prohibition of the Exportation of *WOOLL* would be of great advantage, not only to his Majesty, but all his Trading Subjects, Transmitting also a Copy of the said Proposal and Papers, desired the said Companies, or some Members by them Deputed, to meet together, to consider the said Papers, and re-

report such rules and methods, for putting the said Prohibition in execution, as they should conceive most effectual for that end; and to inform their Lordships, whether they were willing to take the care of seeing the Lawes put in Execution, for Prohibiting the said Exportation.

Hereupon, several Members were Deputed by each of the said Companies of Merchants to meet; who at a Conference together agreed, that the said Prohibition could not be effected, without raising a Fund to defray the expence thereof, and that it was not fit to put the *KING* to the charge of it; but rather that all the Woollen Artificers and Traders should contribute thereunto, that so those Persons, who feel the said Greivance, should be instrumental and assisting in the Redressing thereof.

The Factors of *Blackwel*-Hall did also chuse one or two Persons out of each Hall, to attend the Committee of the said Companies of Merchants; who having declared their readiness to Contribute to so good a Work, several of them entered into a Subscription to pay voluntarily several Rates upon all sorts of Woollen Manufactures

ctures consigned to them (*viz.*) for every *Cloth* 2*d.* for every *Searge* 1 *d.* and so proportionably for all other sorts of the *English* Woollen Manufacture, which Subscription was cheerfully Signed by several of the most eminent Factors.

Now because, at several Sessions of Parliament, there have not been wanting some Persons, who have attempted to overthrow the wholesome Lawes, already made for prohibiting the said Exportation. And therefore it is likely, the same Designs will again be set on foot, either by the same or such like Persons.

And the Session of Parliament being near approaching, for the prevention thereof it is proposed, that all manner of Woollen Manufacturers in the several Counties of *England*, would join in the said Subscription for the carrying on so good a Work, by so light and easie Contribution as aforesaid, only for an Experiment of three Years, that so the Progress already made therein may not be obstructed; the Merchants being likewise willing to Contribute thereunto considerably. And for the satisfaction of all Persons assisting in so great a Work, that there may be no just Objection against it: It is Proposed,

fed, that the Clothiers and Factors shall have Liberty to appoint Members out of themselves to join with the Merchants, deputed to consider of the Method, and dispose of the Moneys collected, that it may be impossible the Contribution should be abused or employed to other Purposes; it being not likely to imagine, that, where there is such a joint united Assistance of all manner of Persons concerned in the Wollen-Trade, so many incorporated Companies of Merchants and others concerned, the Clothiers and Factors by their Deputies being present and privy at all Consultations, there should be any Miscarriage.

And the said Prohibition can never be Managed with that Candor and Vprightness, by private and particular Persons. Who, as they declare undertake it, to get Money by it; Whereas these Companies do propose to spend both their Time and Mony without any manner of Design of private Benefit to themselves, but with a constant Annual Charge, freely Contributed for the Publick Good.

Now for as much, as, in former Sessions of Parliament, the whole matter of the said mischiefs

chiefs of Exportation hath been throughly considered, and Concluded, that the Acts in force against the said Exportation, wanted only Explanation and Execution ; to the end that a short Bill to that purpose may pass, this next Session, its desired that the Woollen Manufacturers, in the several Counties, will engage their respective Members to promote the same.

F I N I S.
